

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-23 (previously canceled without prejudice)

24. (previously amended) A method of providing online repository services to a plurality of users by a service provider operating a server computer connected to the Internet, said Internet being capable of transmitting and/or receiving one or more information objects, each said information object comprising voice, video, data, text and/or any combinations thereof, said server computer configured to hold information objects, for each of the plurality of users, said each of the plurality of users having an account with the server computer, the method comprising the following steps performed by the server computer:

allocating storage to store a first user's information as the user's online repository;

assigning an address for the first user's online repository;

receiving the first user's account information;

receiving an information object;

storing the information object in the first user's online repository;

if the information object is copyright-protected, then

examining ~~the~~ license information for the copyright-protected information object to determine a number N (where $N \geq 1$) of simultaneous users who could access the copyright-protected information object; and

allowing no more than N simultaneous users to access the copyright-protected information object.

25. (previously amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the information object is a news article, a web page, a bookmark, a document, an e-book, an image, a piece of music, a piece of audio, a video clip, or a movie.

26. (previously amended) A method of providing online repository services to a plurality of users by a service provider operating a server computer connected to the Internet, said server computer configured to hold information objects for each of the plurality of users, said each of the plurality of users having an account with the server computer, the method comprising the following steps performed by the server computer:

receiving an information object, wherein said information object comprises voice, video, data, text and/or any combinations thereof;

storing the information object in a first user's online repository;

if the information object is copyright-protected, then

receiving license information for the copyright-protected information object, said license information indicating that the license is for access of the information object for a predetermined time (T_{license});

permitting access of the copyright-protected information object in accordance with the time constraint imposed by the license information; and

disabling access to the copyright-protected information object upon expiration of the predetermined time (T_{license}).

27. (previously amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of allowing no more than N simultaneous users to access the copyright-protected information object comprises the step of:

receiving a request from n requesters to access a copyright-protected information object having N (where $N \geq 1$) licenses;

allowing each of the n (where $n \leq N$) requesters to access the information object for a predetermined period of time (T_{access}).

28. (previously amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of:
establishing a waiting list for each of the remaining ($n > N$) requesters; and
when one of the N licenses becomes available, permitting one of the requesters on the waiting list to access the information object.

29. (previously amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of:
streaming content of the information object to said one or more of N users.

30. (previously amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of:
suitably formatting the information object for access by said one or more of N users.

31. (previously amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of formatting includes:

initiating a handshaking protocol with a designated device to establish the type of formatting required to make the information object accessible to said one or more of N users.

32. (previously amended) A computer system configured to permit sharing of digital content between a first party and a second party, said computer system comprising:

a data communications capable of establishing a connection with the Internet said Internet being capable of transmitting and/or receiving one or more information objects, each said information object comprising voice, video, data, text and/or any combinations thereof;

an account establishment module capable of establishing an account for the first party and storing the first party's account information in the database;

a database interface module capable of storing in said database one or more copyright-protected information objects; and

a security module capable of making the one or more copyright-protected information objects accessible to the second party in accord with one or more constraints imposed by

respective license information associated with the one or more copyright-protected information objects.

33. (previously amended) The computer system of claim 32 wherein the one or more constraints imposed by the license information restricts the number N (where $N \geq 1$) of times the copyright-protected information object may be accessed simultaneously.

34. (previously amended) The computer system of claim 33, further comprising a locking mechanism configured to prevent access to the copyright-protected information object more than N times simultaneously.

35. (previously amended) The computer system of claim 32 wherein the one or more constraints imposed by license information associated with a copyright-protected information object restricts the time during which a user may access the copyright-protected information object.

36. (previously amended) The computer system of claim 32 wherein the copyright-protected information object is made accessible via a browser-controlled window.

37. (previously amended) The computer system of claim 32 wherein the copyright-protected information object is made accessible via the HTTP protocol.

38. (previously amended) The computer system of claim 32 wherein the copyright-protected information object is made accessible via a streaming technique.

39. (previously amended) The computer system of claim 32 further comprising:
a formatter, said formatter capable of formatting the copyright-protected information object suitable to the requirements of a client device.

40. (previously amended) The computer system of claim 39, wherein the formatter is capable of selecting a suitable format from a database of formats to format the copyright-

protected information object.

41. (presently amended) The computer system of claim 39, wherein the wherein the formatter is capable of selecting a set of stored rules to format the copyright-protected information object.

42. (presently amended) The computer system of claim 39, wherein the formatter formats the information object to fit the screen of said client device.

43. (previously amended) A method of providing online repository services to a first user by a service provider operating a server computer connected to the Internet, said Internet being capable of transmitting and/or receiving one or more information objects, each said information object comprising voice, video, data, text and/or any combinations thereof, said server computer configured to hold information objects of a plurality of users, said plurality of users having accounts with the server computer, the method comprising the following steps performed by said server computer:

receiving an identification of an information object to be included in the first user's

online repository;

including the identified information object in the first user's online repository;

if the identified information object is copyright-protected, then

determining a number N , (where $N \geq 1$) of times that the copyright-protected

information object may be simultaneously accessed; and

allowing the copyright-protected information object to be simultaneously

accessed no more than N times.

44. (presently amended) A method of sharing digital content by a plurality of users via an online repository established on a server computer system connected to the Internet said Internet

being capable of transmitting and receiving one or more information objects, each said information object comprising voice, video, data, text and/or any combinations thereof, and said server computer system configured to hold information objects, said server computer having an account for a first user, the method comprising the following steps performed by said server computer system:

receiving an identification of an information object to be included in the first user's

~~online repository~~ account;

including the identified information object in the first user's account ~~online repository~~;

if the identified information object is copyright-protected, then

determining a time period (T) during which the copyright-protected information

object may be accessed; and

allowing the copyright-protected information object to be accessed during that

time period (T); and

disabling access to the copyright-protected information object upon expiration of

that time period (T).